

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 56, 58, and 61, and add claims 67-72, as follows.

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) A data communication method comprising:

providing a data card including a magnetic material;

inserting the data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with the magnetic material of the data card;

moving the data card in a linear first direction through ~~rollers~~ of the data unit to a first position;

moving the data card along a first path from the first position toward the data head;

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while holding the data card stationary and moving the data head along a second path parallel to the first direction and perpendicular to the second path.

57. (Previously Added) The method of claim 56, further comprising cleaning the data card within the data unit.

58. (Currently Amended) A data communication method comprising:

providing a data card including a magnetic material;

inserting the data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with the magnetic material of the data card;

moving the data card in a linear first direction through ~~rollers~~ of the data unit;

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a first track parallel to the first direction.

59. (Previously Added) The method of claim 58, wherein the linear movement of the data card in the first direction is stopped upon reaching a first position, and further comprising:  
moving the data card linearly from the first position toward the data head prior to the step of communicating signals.

60. (Previously Added) The method of claim 58, further comprising indexing the data card after communicating signals along the first track, and then communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second track parallel to the first track.

61. (Previously Added) The method of claim 60, wherein the data card is indexed in a direction perpendicular to the first track.

62. (Previously Added) The method of claim 60, wherein after communicating signals along the first track, but before communicating signals along the second track, the data head is moved beyond a first edge of the data card.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~63~~ 61, wherein the data unit includes a data head support surface positioned adjacent the first edge of the data card during the communication of signals, wherein the data head is positioned over the data support surface during the indexing of the data card.

64. (Previously Added) The method of claim 58, further comprising communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second track parallel to the first track.

65. (Previously Added) A data communication method comprising:

providing a rectangular data card comprising magnetic material;

inserting the data card into a data unit, wherein the data unit includes a data head operable to communicate signals with the magnetic material of the data card; and

communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a first data track, and subsequently communicating signals between the data head and the magnetic material while moving the data head in a linear manner along a second data track, wherein the first and second data tracks are parallel data tracks.

66. (Previously Added) The method of claim 65, wherein between the moving of the data head along the first and second data tracks, the data card is repositioned.

67. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the magnetic material is on an exterior surface of the data card.

68. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the data head contacts the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

69. (New) The method of claim 65, wherein the data head is a flying head that does not contact the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

70. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the magnetic material is on an exterior surface of the data card.

71. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the data head contacts the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.

72. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the data head is a flying head that does not contact the magnetic material during the communicating of the signals.